

THE Organized FARMER

Vol. 24 November 1, 1963 No. 21

The Drylanders

A movie which "really tells the truth" about what it was like to pioneer on the prairies, has been brought to Alberta by the National Film Board. **The Drylanders**, first full length feature to be produced by the Board, has been showing for the past week in Calgary and district. It opens tonight (Nov. 1) in Edmonton and simultaneously in 14 other centres within a 40 mile radius of that city.

Drylanders tells the story of a pioneer family on the Saskatchewan prairie. According to critics, it is an honest, accurate portrayal of the lives these people had to lead while they were opening up what has become known as the bread basket of the world. The movie is also rated as being top quality family entertainment. It

is being distributed through Columbia Pictures.

This story was filmed in and around Swift Current, Sask. where it was premiered. Canadian actress Frances Hyland stars with James Douglas. The supporting actors are also Canadian. The complete program is all-Canadian, with the short subjects, as well as the feature coming from the National Film Board.

BONSPIEL NOTES

by Ken Nelson

A new sports spectacle will be added to the Province of Alberta in 1964.

Plans are going ahead on a two-day, province-wide, F.U.A. Bonspiel, which will be held in the Sportex Building at the Edmonton Exhibition Grounds on March 10-11. Whether or not tentative plans are finalized depends on the response of the members.

- The bonspiel is open to all FUA and FWUA members.
- It shouldn't cost any one person more than \$10 in all.
- All expenses will be paid for those taking part in the final.
- Address questions to the Bonspiel Committee c/o F.U.A. Central Office, 9934-106 St., Edmonton, Alta.

Manitoba Sets M.F.U. Week

In recognition of the value of the Manitoba Farmers Union as an occupational farm organization in Manitoba, the Manitoba provincial government has issued a special proclamation declaring November 4-9 to be Manitoba Farm Union Week.

The M.F.U. commences its 1964 membership drive on November 4. Within the 250 locals of the Farm Union, more than 1,000 volunteer canvassers will make an all out effort to complete the campaign by the end of that week.

U-DAY SUCCESS MEANS CONTACTING ALL FARMERS

This year, while the success of the U-day membership drive rides with the efforts of every member to bring in those extra names, emphasis is on the organizational work of the sub-district boards.

The only way that an extra 6,000 units can be obtained to fill our objective of 30,000 is to have every farm possible canvassed. The sub-districts are responsible for seeing that all the farmers in

their area are asked to join.

But, the responsibility doesn't rest there. Every local must be sure that they retain all their members, and that every farmer in the district is given a chance to join. This means that the local canvassers, the men and women who actually go out and talk to their fellow farmers about joining the union, are the ones who will ensure that U-day, November 13, is a success.

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934-106 St., Edmonton, Alta.
Phone: GA 4-0375
After 5:00 p.m.: HU 9-6955

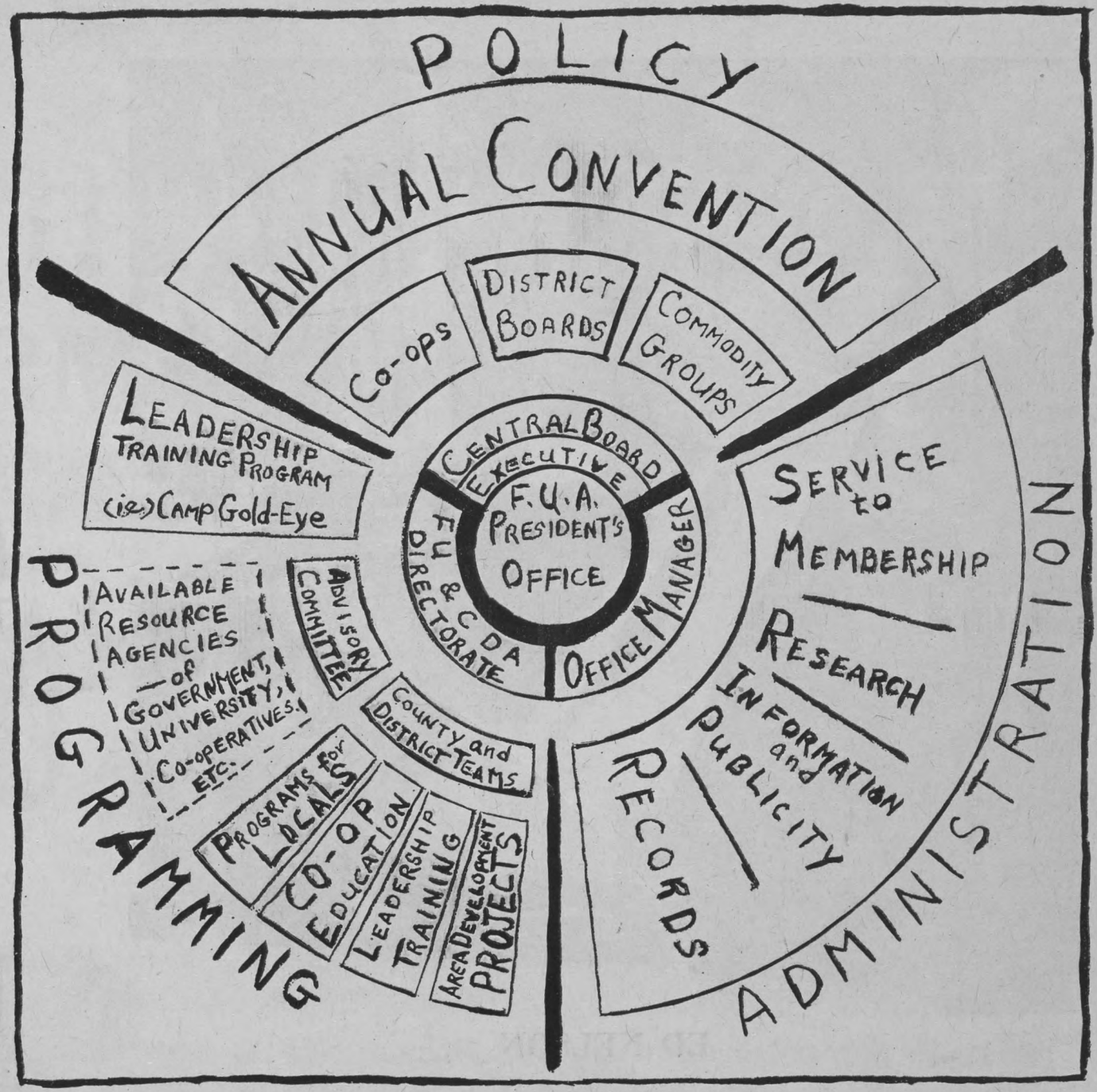
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HOG QUALITY SUBJECT OF MEET

"Production of Quality Hogs" is the theme chosen for a special conference of Alberta's Hog Producers to be held November 1st at the Edmonton Exhibition's Sportex Building.

All Alberta organizations interested in the swine industry will be invited to have representatives in attendance. This is planned as a producer meeting with representation from the federal and provincial Departments of Agriculture, University of Alberta, Experimental Farms and Industry assisting with the program.

The Alberta Federation of Agri-



POSSIBLE STRUCTURE OF A FUTURE ALBERTA FARM ORGANIZATION

The Need and Purpose Of FARM ORGANIZATION

By Ed Nelson

A farm organization must be accepted by a substantial majority of farmers, if it is to serve its members well.

This majority must have confidence in the organization and must feel that through it their voice is heard and recognized. The organization must provide all the machinery necessary to do that job well.

Every member must feel that he is helping to provide a machine that is working for him. His loyalty to the machine must not be a subservient loyalty, but rather a feeling of responsibility, to ensure that the machine works well!

The organization should be the means of communication between the farmers and the other groups that make up our community. It should be able to design acceptable farm policy, and help governments at all levels to incorporate that policy into national, provincial and municipal policy.

Our organization should be able to interpret all available information, technical, economic and so-

cial, and apply that information to farm needs. It should consolidate all farm thinking into acceptable farm policy. It should be prepared to contribute leadership and train new leaders. It should also provide services that can best be provided in a central way. These might include certain types of information—legal, technical and social.

Principles and Objectives

To have this kind of organization requires (1) some effort on the part of farmers, (2) finances sufficient to do whatever was necessary, and (3) a good organization structure. For a province as large as Alberta, and with so much diversity in types of farms, a budget of less than \$250,000 is not realistic. This is about \$3.50 per farmer. How the money is provided is a matter for the farmers to decide.

The physical make-up of the organization needs to be designed to do all these things with a minimum of duplication, and, at the same time, provide for a maximum of participation by farmers.

Two basic principles must be recognized:

1. All farmers must be able to join with a minimum of effort.
2. It must provide all farmers with all pertinent information.

These objectives will require a well organized local structure and a well equipped and functional central organization.

It is important that this organization makes full use of the services and information that are now available. Until we do that there is no point in establishing more.

With One Voice

The next thing to have in mind is the importance of farmers being able to speak with "one voice." This too, is more likely to happen when all farmers have properly "digested" all the information available to them. This "one voice" can come only from "one organization," which farmers have agreed will be their spokesman. It will never happen so long as every organization which farmers create, insists on being a spokesman.

The vital question is: Do farmers want to speak with one voice? If they do, there is a way it can be done. It may never be as effective as other organizations with the compulsory features of closed shop or discipline such as labor, and doctors or lawyers have, but it can certainly be more effective than the tower of babel we now have.

The next question is: what is that one voice to be used for? Is it to be used solely to create economic gain to farmers? Or is it to be used in the broader sense—in helping to design policies which will lift our whole social order and give to each his rights? If we have too many voices, these rights will never be established or promoted!

Delegating Authority

How much responsibility do farmers want to delegate and to whom do they wish to delegate it? Obviously every farmer cannot take part in every phase of organization. It is very important then that he delegate others to speak for him and then that he has confidence in these delegates and supports them. Does he want delegates to act through another organization, or directly to the policy making body? This is very important because there are two points of view. One idea is

(Continued on page 4)



ED NELSON

"Your F.U.A. H FOR

but that's in the past!

WHAT COUNTS

RIGHT NOW . . .

FOR THE RECORD

CROPS

- Cash advances on farm stored grain.
- Box car distribution according to farmer's choice.
- A dollar an acre in lieu of parity prices.
- Retention and extension to cover rapeseed of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement (saves from 15 to 30 cents per bushel).
- Canadian Wheat Board retained.
- P.F.A. Act amended to allow smaller blocks of land to qualify for assistance.
- A Crop Insurance Act has been passed (1959) allowing any province to set up a comprehensive crop insurance plan.

LIVESTOCK

- T.B. testing of all cattle (completed 1961), Alberta is becoming a Bangs Free Area—through provincial and federal government co-operation—result of F.U.A. requests for compulsory vaccination of heifer calves.
- F.U.A. requests for producer marketing boards for farm produce other than grain resulted in The Marketing of Agricultural Products Act.
- The Agricultural Stabilization Act, and other measures to guarantee prices have been implemented.

TAXATION

- Farmers now have the right to average income over a 5 year period.
- Depreciation is now allowed on homes, electrical equipment, wells, etc.
- Basic herd principle established.

CREDIT

- Alberta Farm Credit Act established.
- Farm Credit Corporation Act passed.

- Farm Improvement Loans for clearing and breaking land made available.

PROPERTY LAW

- A result of F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. study has been the new Estate Tax Bill, passed in 1959, which exempts all estates up to \$50,000; allows \$60,000 exemption for widows; and has added exemptions for dependent children.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY ON EDUCATION

- Text book rental plan.
- Vocational training now available to Alberta students.
- A Veterinary College is now being established in the West.

PUBLIC WELFARE

- F.W.U.A. requests for changes in the granting Mothers' Allowances were met.

HEALTH

- Health Units established—result of F.W.U.A. requests.

Through the years, all of the above advances have been influenced, or have come about through Farm Union action.

F.U.A. SERVICES

- Insurance Pools: F.U.A. Car insurance; F.U.A. group life insurance; Fire - Farm Floater - Liability - Accident.
- Income Tax Service, Surface Rights assistance; Contract problems, etc.
—The F.U.A. has taken over the work of the Surface Rights Protective Association.
- Information: made available through various news media, including The Organized Farmer, and through the "Voice of Agriculture" on radio.

There is an F.U.A. sponsoring farm organization in Alberta and more effective system of farm expected to evolve.

A brief has just been presented to the Commission on Taxation, by the views of Alberta farmers on

An F.U.A. committee is preparing improved methods of hog marketing

Plans for the annual convention ward.

F.U. & C.D.A. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT has been launched. (More details in

FARM REPRESENTATION

Members of the F.U.A., Junior Farmers, giving the rural view point on many committees. Some of these are:

- Advisory Committee Price Support
- Alberta Federation of Agriculture
- Committee on Mental Health Legislation
- Curriculum Committee of the Department of Education
- Dental Auxiliary Committee
- Farm Labour Committee
- Farm Radio Forum
- Farm Safety
- Hudson's Bay Route Association
- Indian Eskimo Association
- National Labour — Co-operative Stabilization Act
- Alberta Economic and Productivity

YOU C

F.U.

Is One Of the

as Done MORE THAN A LITTLE ALBERTA'S FARMERS"

S NOW IS THE FUTURE!

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE NEEDS A VOICE. AND IT HAS AN EFFECTIVE ONE IN
THE FARMERS' UNION.

The F.U.A. has gained the confidence of governments. F.U.A. influence is felt wherever
decisions which affect you the Alberta farmer, are made.

TO DO ITS JOB IN FUTURE — THE F.U.A. MUST BE KEPT STRONG.

AND TOMORROW?

WILL MARKETING BOARDS be
established in Alberta?

WILL FARM INCOME be stabil-
ized at acceptable levels?

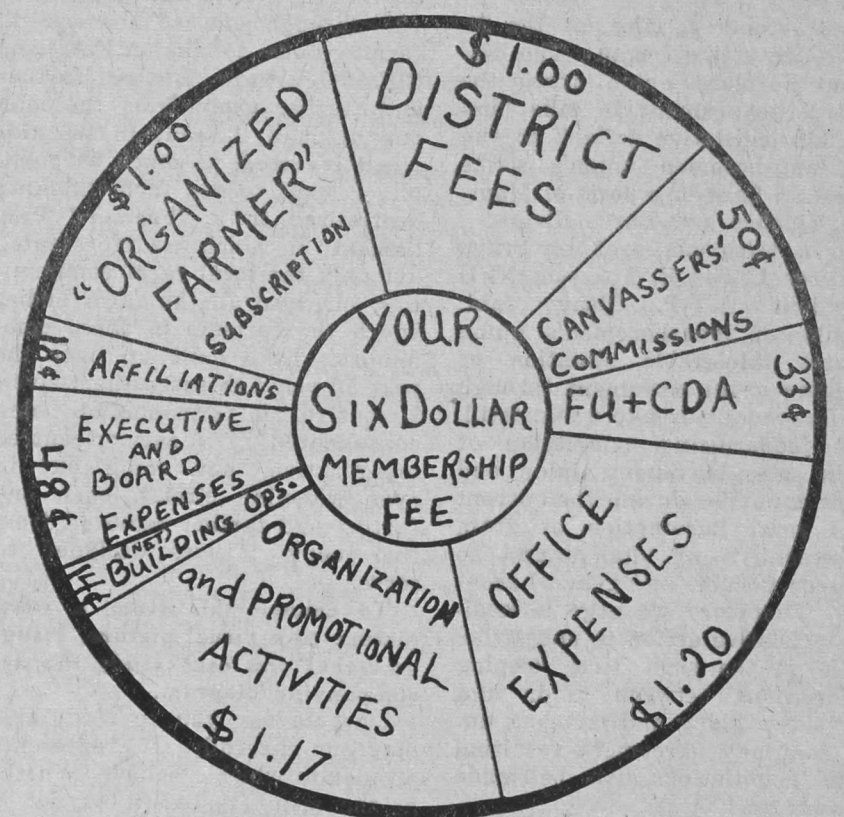
CAN FARM ORGANIZATIONS
work together effectively for com-
mon goals?

SHALL CITY AND COUNTRY
people misunderstand each other
in the Future?

Your opinions on these, and
many other problems, should be-
come part of FUA policy. You Can
have a voice in shaping the agri-
cultural community of tomorrow!

**TAKE POSITIVE ACTION
BE A
MEMBER OF THE F.U.A.**

Where Does Your Money Go?



Graph based on 30,000 unit membership

Your delegates to the Annual Convention Dec. 9-13,
will get a detailed breakdown of the figures shown
above.

CAN BE POSITIVE!
A. MEMBERSHIP
BEST INVESTMENTS You Can Make

A letter and a reply about

Irresponsible Leadership

... on the Great Lakes

The letter printed below was received this week from a member concerned by labour strife in some of Canada's grain ports, and it's affects on farmers. With it appears a letter of reply, setting forth FUA views on the matter.

To The Editor,
Organized Farmer,
Dear Sir:

May I be allowed to ask some questions:

1. What are the Farmers' Union of the Prairie Provinces doing about the Seafarers' Union strike?
2. Has the Farmers' Union done anything to Organize the farmers, to load their own grain?
3. De we have to wait for the Government to act?
4. Or can we as a Farmers' Union form a Master Association and lock out the Seafarers' Union employees?
5. Realizing the danger involved at the docks, and also realizing Canada has not enough trained police personnel, would the present Dominion Government co-operate and place Army guard protection over the Organized Farm Movement to load the ships, if such a movement was organized?

Question No. 5 might just induce the present Dominion Government to load the ships with Army personnel once they see we (the Organized Farmer) mean business, but we (the Organized Farmer) must force pressure on our present Dominion Government. Once they are under pressure they will see the need for drafting legislation to avoid any such nonsense as a union strike of any kind.

I have read your October 3 issue of The Organized Farmer and all I can find is Politics and Wheat Sales I fail to see what is so much to be thankful for, when the Government has negotiated the sales of wheat and the Government might let the Seafarers' Union put Canada's reputation at stake. Seems to me the men have been able to materialize a Wheat Sale, but I am afraid they won't get it moving. They will need some level-headed woman to steer the issue as we are not so concerned to get the vote, come next election.

All the Farmers Union locals could have been contacted in such

an important matter, and let us all pull together in co-operation.

Remain Yours Truly,
Mrs. FUA Member

FARM ORGANIZATION . . .

(Continued from page 1)

that a delegate can do a better job if he is acting through another organization. Others say not.

Let us use an example. The delegates to the A.F.A. convention are made up entirely of delegates representing organizations. The F.U.A. provides delegates, (mostly board members) and the co-operatives and commodity groups have delegates representing each organization. I think most people believe that delegates appointed in this manner will be more inclined to represent the thinking of the organizations than the thinking of farmers as members of the community. I am inclined to agree.

However, any farmer who tries to represent a community without a full understanding of the needs of co-op or commodity organizations which are also serving that community, cannot do a real job either. That is why I am convinced that some combination is necessary. I am equally convinced that any combination that does not start at the local level is not satisfactory.

Farmers' Parliament

The logic of bringing farmers together to hammer out farm policy only to have it reshaped at another delegate assembly, still further removed from the farmer, is not apparent to me. Communications are always a problem. Any lengthening of lines of communication only adds to the difficulty.

It seems more logical to make provision for delegate representation from other farm organizations to the F.U.A. convention. This, together with a central board that is representative of all organizations, should give fair and adequate representation to the whole farm community.

What I am trying to say is this. At present our farm thinking follows two paths. (1) from the locals to the sub-districts to this convention to the A.F.A. and to the C.F.A. or the N.F.U., or (2) through one of the several farm co-ops to the A.F.A. and C.F.A. — always moving farther and farther away from the man on the land. I want to see this trend reversed, as much as possible. I want to see farm thinking centralized in a "Farmers' Parliament" in which are represented not only the local farm communities, but also all the farm bodies which the farmers in those communities have built up over the past 50 years to serve themselves. I want to see farm opinion being consolidated in a farmer-centred organization, not going out in ever widening circles, each one farther and farther removed from the people it was designed to serve.

To change this from a word picture to a visual picture, I suggest that you each study the accompanying diagram.

I would ask you to study this diagram carefully. It represents an idea in which I believe. Whether the members like it or not is for them to decide. It is my hope that the committee presently studying this question will be able to report to the convention. The delegates should be better able to understand the committee report, and deal with it, if they have taken time to study the ideas presented here.

October 21, 1963

Dear Mrs. F.U.A. Member,

In reply to your letter of October 18, may I say that this is the first and only letter received from a member on this subject so far. There may be more but my experience in the past tells me they will be few. It could be our members are waiting for me to grab a flag and lead them into the fray. This would be easy to do. But, my responsibility is not so easily discharged. This is a responsibility I owe to you as a citizen and member, and also to the organization and the nation.

We are thankful that wheat sales have been made. This is good for Canada. It helps the farmers by moving present stocks out of the way. It does nothing to better the economic position of the farmer because the price obtained is not in line with cost of production in our Canadian economy. Our responsibility as an organization is to constantly make this fact know, to government, to the Seafarers' Union and to everyone else. This we will continue to do.

As a responsible organization, we must also recognize that the people in the Seafarers' Union are human beings, just as we are, getting large hourly wages, by our standards, but working at a necessary job that is not continuous. As a result most of them must be content with a low yearly wage. Unfortunately, their organization is in the hands of irresponsible unscrupulous leadership and the members need help to rid themselves of it. We, as part of Canadian society, must help them to do this, just as I hope someone would help us if we ran into the same difficulty.

Now to your question:

1. The Farm Unions are supporting the Government in their move to provide a trusteeship. The government decision to do this could only be taken after responsible effort was made by the Unions to resolve the problem.

2. No. The loading of grain is not the issue here. It is an unfortunate by-product of an attempt to establish proper bargaining rights under the protection of Canadian law, which, so far, has not fulfilled its responsibility. We must see that it does.

Getting the farmers into position to take over the job is only emotional thinking. It is not realistic. Mobilizing the Army is a possible alternative.

3. Yes, but we need to mobilize public opinion to support the Government when they do act.

4. No. It would serve no purpose. Lock them out of what? Such action should be taken only by Government.

5. I have no way of knowing what the Government would do. I am concerned that nothing be undertaken from a narrow emotional basis. This is not good enough for a responsible body as the FUA. We must not act under the type of emotionalism that placed irresponsible leaders like Hal Banks in positions of trust.

LEVEL HEADEDNESS
As to the need for level headed women in leadership, I couldn't agree more! Give us many of them, and level headed men too. It takes level heads to give leadership in problems of this sort. The first thing for these level heads to do is to get all the facts. The next thing is to study them objectively and without emotion. The last thing is to decide what action the FUA, as an organization, can and should take. Our locals have a big job to do to study and understand these issues in a rational way, and to come up with some sound and lasting answers.

Yours truly, F.U.A.

F.U.A. BONSPIEL

Entry form . . .

Return to

BONSPIEL COMMITTEE

FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15

Local..... No.....

Names of team members:

SKIP.....

THIRD.....

SECOND.....

LEAD.....

Adjustments can be made to this list only with the approval of bonspiel officials.

A \$10 ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY FORM!

Any number of rinks may enter from each local.

American Institute Of Co-operation

by Gerald Hutchinson

For a number of years, the Jr. F.U.A. has sent one member from its board of directors to the American Institute of Co-operation annual conference. This year I represented our organization at the institute held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The largest registration in a good number of years assembled for the 35th annual meeting. The program got under way Sunday, August 14, with an afternoon get-acquainted party followed by an evening meditation program. The conference was officially opened Monday morning by J. K. Stern, A.I.C. president. Representatives from the university, the City of Lincoln, and the State of Nebraska extended greetings to some 3,000 people in attendance.

The daily schedule included speakers from the federal department of agriculture, university personnel, and co-op officials. Most of Tuesday was spent on a tour of interesting sites in and around Lincoln. Included on the tour was a visit to the capitol building, which is one of the architectural wonders of the world. Other points of interest were a typical dairy farm, the state museum, and a grain terminal with 10 million bushels storage capacity.

Tuesday evening was the high-

light of the conference and began with a buffet banquet in the basement of Pershing Auditorium, where all joint sessions were held. At the banquet a roving orchestra played songs upon request pertaining to various states. One incident which took place was an announcement of the national anthem, and then the orchestra played "Dixie."

A.I.C. in Canada

The entire conference was much too large for me to take in entirely; as well as the youth program, there was a program for adults and club leaders. I think it most unfortunate that there weren't more co-op minded people from Alberta present.

One of the things that always seemed to enter a discussion was the question: "Why isn't the conference held in Canada periodically?" Well, why not? Better yet, why not hold it in Alberta? Both Calgary and Edmonton have more than adequate facilities with the universities and Jubilee Auditoriums, plus the fact that the farm organization and co-operative relationship is probably second to none in Canada.

I think A.I.C. conference in Canada would do much to create a better understanding between the rural peoples of two countries so dependent on each other.